

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TOCY, MX

SUBJECT: CLEARANCES FOR U.S. RESEARCH VESSELS

REF: MEXICO 6282

1. DEPT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER RECENT PROBLEMS IN AC-
QUIRING RESEARCH CLEARANCES FOR U.S. VESSELS IN MEXICAN
WATERS. REFTEL PROVIDED EXAMPLE OF MAXINE D. WHICH
RECEIVED PORT CALL CLEARANCE 3 DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED
PORT CALL. OTHER EXAMPLES OF FAR GREATER SEVERITY
INCLUDE:

A. ELLEN B. SCRIPPS - CRUISE SCHEDULED FOR 3-12 APRIL,
CLEARANCE SUBMITTED 24 JANUARY AND STILL NOT RECEIVED
FROM GOM - RESEARCH DELAYED.

B. IDA GREEN - CRUISE SCHEDULED FOR 20 APRIL - 10 MAY,
CLEARANCE SUBMITTED 24 JAN AND STILL NOT RECEIVED FROM
GOM.

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C. GYRE - CRUISE SCHEDULED FOR 24 MAR - 7 APR, CLEARANCE
SUBMITTED LATE ON 22 FEB BUT WITH MEXICAN SCIENTIFIC
COLLABORATION, NEVER RECEIVED - RESEARCH CANCELLED.

D. IDA GREEN - CRUISE SCHEDULED FOR 1 FEB - 1 MAY (DATES
LATER REVISED TO 16 MAR - 15 APR), CLEARANCE SUBMITTED

8 DEC, NEVER RECEIVED - RESEARCH CANCELLED.

2. THIS PROBLEM HAS DEVELOPED JUST RECENTLY AND IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR RESEARCH PROJECTS OFF MEXICO. POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR SERIOUS INCIDENTS AS WE HAVE LEARNED AFTER THE FACT THAT IDA GREEN CONDUCTED RESEARCH IN CLAIMED MEXICAN 200 MILE ZONE (25 MILES OFF COAST) WITHOUT RECEIVING MEXICAN CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCH.

3. FRUSTRATION IS HEIGHTENED SINCE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION AS TO WHY CLEARANCES ARE NOT BEING PROCESSED OR IF LACK OF ATTENTION IS DELIBERATE ON PART OF GOM. IN SOME CASES DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN U.S. INSTITUTIONS REQUESTING CLEARANCE AND EMBASSY WITHOUT DEPT BEING INFORMED OF STATUS OF CLEARANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, MAXINE D. IS CHARTERED TO COMMANDER, SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP ONE BY DEARBORN MARINE AND OPERATED BY A CIVILIAN CREW. IF CONSIDERED A PUBLIC VESSEL IT SHOULD SUBMIT PORT CALL CLEARANCE REQUESTS THROUGH THE DEPT; IF PRIVATE, IT SHOULD ACQUIRE ITS OWN CLEARANCE THROUGH A SHIPPING AGENT. THE DEPT WAS NOT AWARE OF THE MAXINE D. PORT CALL UNTIL PROBLEM WAS REPORTED REFTEL.

4. REFTEL REPORTED DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL ON SUBJECT. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REPORT WHETHER MEETING WAS CALLED TO
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DISCUSS CLEARANCE PROBLEM OR SUBJECT WAS JUST DISCUSSED CASUALLY, AND TO DETERMINE IF GOM CONCERN WITH PROBLEM IS SUFFICIENT TO BRING NECESSARY ACTION TO ELIMINATE PROBLEM. IF NOT, PLEASE RECOMMEND ACTIONS YOU MIGHT CONSIDER APPROPRIATE. CHRISTOPHER

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